NEW BRITAIN 1635-1935

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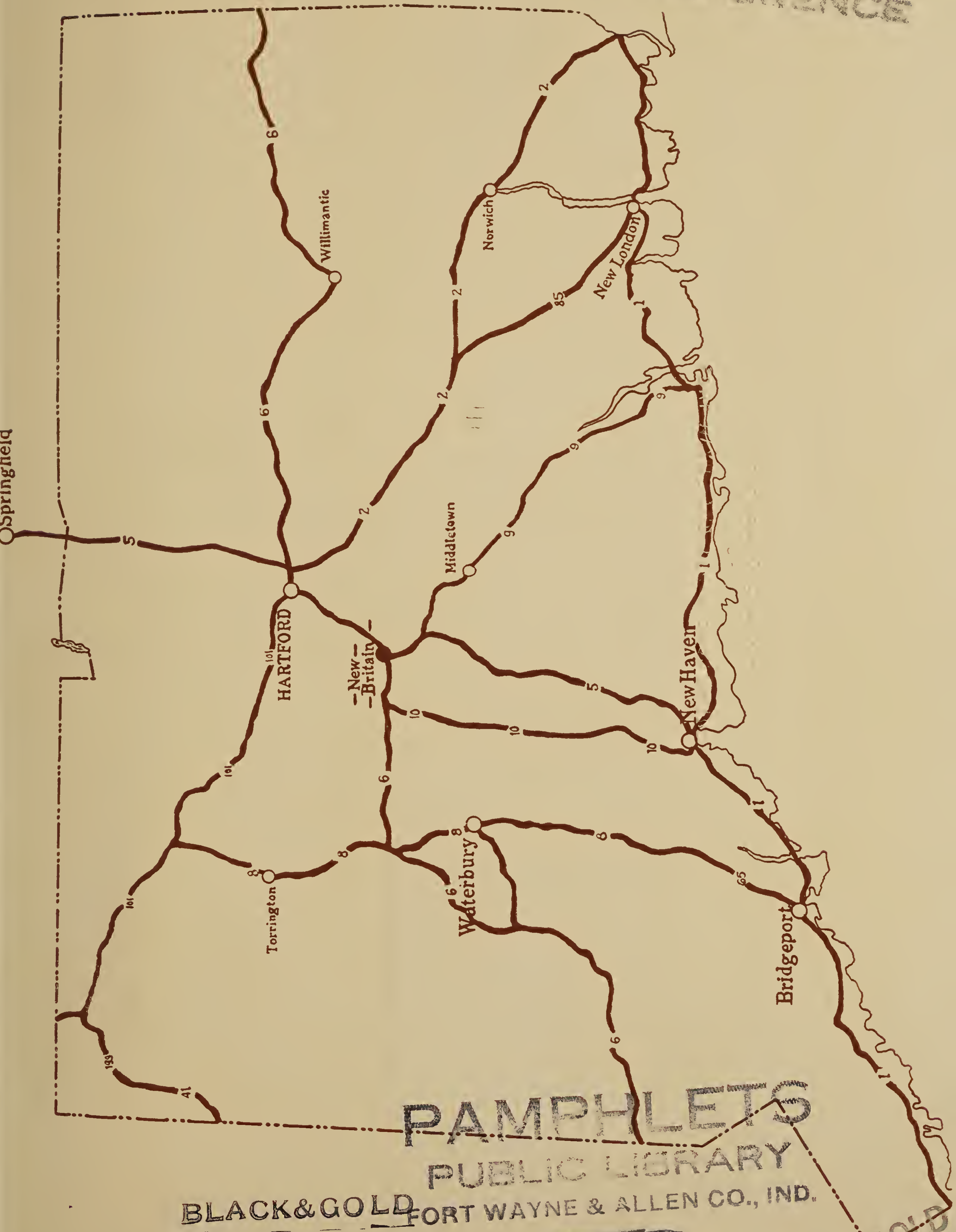

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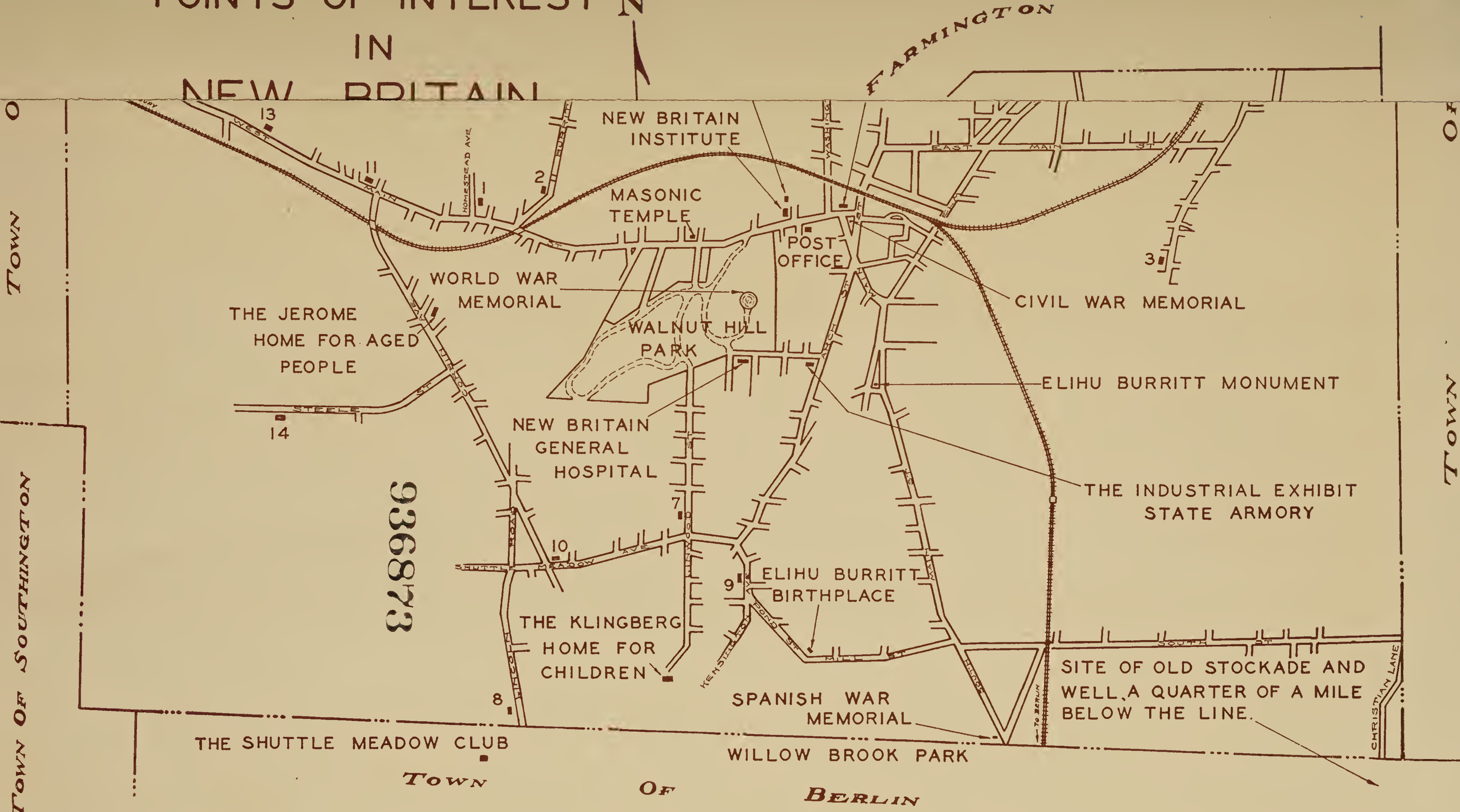
THE FIRST WELL

A well of never-failing water was dug inside the stockade built in 1686, on Christian Lane.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN NEW BRITAIN



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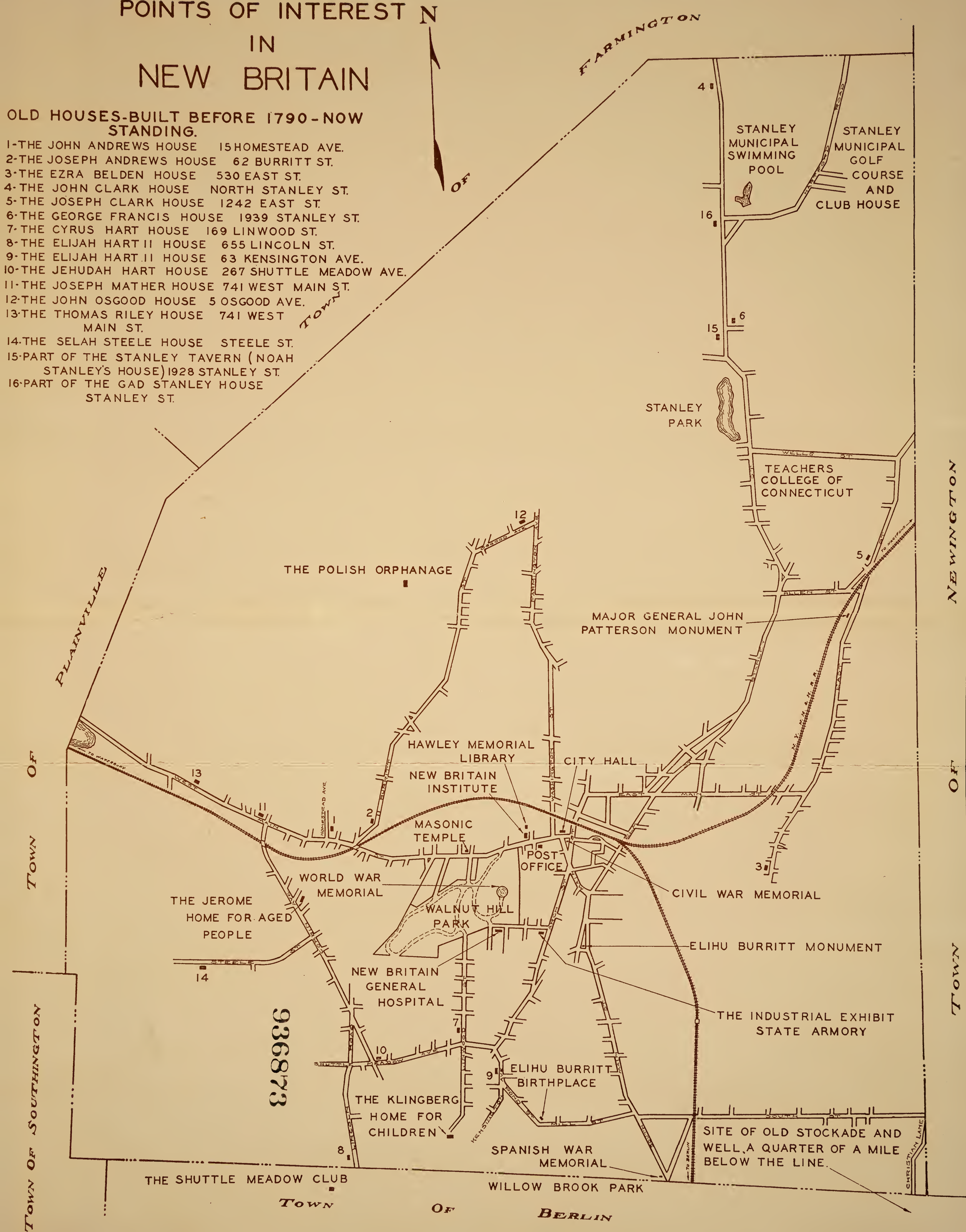
THE FIRST WELL

A well of never-failing water was dug inside the stockade built in 1686, on Christian Lane.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN NEW BRITAIN

OLD HOUSES-BUILT BEFORE 1790-NOW STANDING.

1-THE JOHN ANDREWS HOUSE 15 HOMESTEAD AVE.
2-THE JOSEPH ANDREWS HOUSE 62 BURRITT ST.
3-THE EZRA BELDEN HOUSE 530 EAST ST.
4-THE JOHN CLARK HOUSE NORTH STANLEY ST.
5-THE JOSEPH CLARK HOUSE 1242 EAST ST.
6-THE GEORGE FRANCIS HOUSE 1939 STANLEY ST.
7-THE CYRUS HART HOUSE 169 LINWOOD ST.
8-THE ELIJAH HART II HOUSE 655 LINCOLN ST.
9-THE ELIJAH HART II HOUSE 63 KENSINGTON AVE.
10-THE JEHUDAH HART HOUSE 267 SHUTTLE MEADOW AVE.
11-THE JOSEPH MATHER HOUSE 741 WEST MAIN ST.
12-THE JOHN OSGOOD HOUSE 5 OSGOOD AVE.
13-THE THOMAS RILEY HOUSE 741 WEST MAIN ST.
14-THE SELAH STEELE HOUSE STEELE ST.
15-PART OF THE STANLEY TAVERN (NOAH STANLEY'S HOUSE) 1928 STANLEY ST.
16-PART OF THE GAD STANLEY HOUSE STANLEY ST.



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TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE OF NEW BRITAIN

Mayor David L. Dunn, *Honorary Chairman*

George C. Rogers, *Chairman*

Henry T. Burr
Gerald P. Crean
William H. Day
M. Henry Donnelly
Miss Edith B. Helmer
Joseph M. Ward

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appointed by the Women's Cooperative Committee

Miss Edith B. Helmer, *Chairman*

Miss L. Adele Bassett
Miss E. Gertrude Rogers
Mrs. Louis W. Young

Grateful Acknowledgement is Made to:

Mr. Buell B. Bassette, Mr. H. P. Battey, Mrs. S. M. Cowles, Mr. H. N. Lockwood, Mr. Carl Neumann and many others who furnished information for the historical sketches;

The City Social Survey for the service of Mrs. Estelle Case Gard, artist; for the loan of the drawings and maps, and for valuable assistance;

Miss E. Gertrude Rogers, author and compiler of the historical data.

Bibliography

History of the First Church of New Britain by Alfred Andrews.

History of New Britain by David N. Camp.

Life and Labors of Elihu Burritt by Charles Northend.

Genealogies.

THE JUDD ELM

The Judd Elm marks the location of one of the four original houses which stood on West Main Street west of Washington Street

TERCENTENARY PROGRAM

NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT

JULY 22-27, 1935

Thursday, July 25	*"Elizabeth, the Queen"* Presented by the Little Theatre Guild The Embassy Theatre 8:00 P. M. Admission 25 cents
Friday, July 26	*Historical Pageant—For children Memorial Field in Willowbrook Park 3:00 P. M. Admission 10 cents
	*Historical Pageant—For adults Memorial Field in Willowbrook Park 9:00 P. M. Admission 25 cents
Saturday, July 27	Tercentenary Parade 2:00 P. M.
	Baseball Game in Walnut Hill Park immediately after the parade
	*Historical Pageant—For adults Memorial Field in Willowbrook Park 9:00 P. M. Admission 25 cents
July 22-27 inclusive	Industrial Exhibit Prepared by the New Britain Manufacturers State Armory Daily 2:00-5:30, 7:00-10:00 Admission free

*The Historical Pageant is presented by Eddy Glover Post No.6 of the American Legion

Championship track and field meet, lawn bowling inter-state tournament, softball, golf, baseball, archery, horseshoe pitching, soccer, field trials, and fish and game outing at selected dates.

HISTORICAL DATES

1634	Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford settled by people from Watertown, Roxbury, Dorchester, and Newtown, Mass.
1645	Farmington incorporated as a town by settlers largely from Hartford.
1686	Settlement begun at Christian Lane in the Great Swamp by families chiefly from Farmington.
1705	Great Swamp Society organized.
1754	Society of New Britain created (Kensington divided from New Britain).
1754	First school established in what is now southeast part of New Britain.
1785	Berlin separated from Farmington and incorporated, including New Britain, Kensington, and Worthington societies.
1791	Circulating Library opened.
1810	Elihu Burritt born September 8.
1825	First Post Office in stone store on Main Street, opposite East Main Street.
1850	New Britain separated from Berlin and incorporated.
1850	First railroad through New Britain.
1850	Normal and High schools established in new Town Hall.
1850	Free graded school system started.
1853	New Britain Institute and Library Association started in a room in the Miller Building.
1857	Shuttle Meadow bought and used for municipal water supply.
1870	New Britain incorporated as a city. Each year until 1876 amendments were made to the charter, conferring additional power on the Common Council. One year the Council met nearly every week, organizing and developing different departments.
1879	Elihu Burritt "Apostle of Universal Brotherhood" died March 6.
1886	The first tramway or horse car.
1896	First High School Building erected on present site.
1901	New Britain Institute Library building erected.
1910	Record breaking flight from Governor's Island to Philadelphia and return in three hours and thirty-four minutes, made by George K. Hamilton, a native of New Britain.
1910	Hamilton Day celebrated in New Britain—first aviation meet in the history of Connecticut.
1922	Normal School Building erected (now Teachers' College of Connecticut).
1928	World War Memorial dedicated.
1931	Hawley Memorial Children's Library erected.
1935	Celebration of the Tercentenary.

FROM COLONIAL SETTLEMENT TO COSMOPOLITAN CITY

ALL ROADS lead to New Britain as truly as they ever led to Rome. Rome never boasted people from more lands than live in New Britain today. The insignia of the Roman army were not carried to such widely scattered places as are the trade marks of New Britain factories.

New Britain is a city of striking contrasts. Here are quaint old houses built before the Revolution and filled with fascinating furniture of the Puritan past. Here also are people from all quarters of the globe, speaking more than thirty languages.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, in 1685, the first English colonists began to settle in the area that later became New Britain, coming over the mountain from Farmington. Some, in the northern part of the present Stanley Quarter, were considered to be still in Farmington. The others gradually formed the Great Swamp Settlement, which included the area from Corbin Corners on the north to East Berlin on the southeast, including Berlin and Kensington, and which also included the land southwest as far as Southington Mountain, and west through Corbin Avenue to West Main Street. An Indian trail ran through the Great Swamp from Farmington to East Berlin. Sundays, except when winter snows made it impossible, a line of settlers' families would trudge over this long trail to worship in Farmington, the men carrying loaded muskets to protect them from the Indians.

In 1686 and 1687, Captain Richard Seymour and others began a settlement and laid out a connecting road which they named Christian Lane. This road still bears the same name in the southeast part of New Britain. These settlers erected a stockade of spiked timber, sixteen feet high, a little north of the present Stiles and Reynolds Brick Company on Christian Lane. In the Palisades, as the stockade was called, were built strong cabins of hand-hewn white oak and chestnut. The fields outside the stockade were cultivated during the day, and at dusk the laborers returned to the fort, for the Mattabesett Indians, neighbors of the colony, were not friendly. A well of never-failing water was dug inside the fort. The dirt and soil, to the depth of sixteen feet, was thrown out by hand without windlass or rope. (Illustration on cover.)

East Street was settled very early by the Judds, Smiths, Lees and others and, because it was very good farming land, it remained the center of the settlement for a long time. Thomas Stanley and four sons, Thomas, Noah, Timothy and Gad, settled in what is now the Stanley Quarter. Portions of the homes of Noah and Gad still stand. Noah kept the tavern and Gad was a colonel in the Revolutionary War. Deacon Elijah Hart, son of Thomas Hart of Kensington, and his son, Judah Hart, had large farms on the present Corbin Avenue near the house later called the "State

House." This large section became known as Hart Quarter. Others of Elijah Hart's sons settled near. One of them, Elijah, who first lived in the southwest corner of Hart Quarter, built a house on Kensington Road, and a mill and dam near Willow Brook, the remains of which may still be seen. It is related that the Cyrus Hart house, now on Linwood Street, was built with a concealed hiding place in the large chimney, which served as a refuge from the Indians.

In 1705, the Great Swamp Society was formed. Soon after its organization a small church was built and a burying ground was laid out on Christian Lane so that it would not be necessary to climb Farmington Mountain each Sunday, or to carry their dead the long distance for burial. This church is not standing, but the cemetery has been carefully preserved. A second meeting house was built a short distance southeast of the present Berlin Station. This was more conveniently located for the residents of Hart Quarter than the first, but was soon outgrown.

Eventually the members of the Society, who lived in the northern part of Great Swamp district, asked leave of the General Court to withdraw and become a separate parish. This new parish was to include three hamlets; Stanley Quarter, Hart Quarter and East Street. In May, 1754, the General Court passed an act creating the Parish, or Society of New Britain, thus separating it from Kensington. The boundaries were similar to those of today. For nearly one hundred years New Britain continued to be a Parish within the town of Berlin.

"At the same meeting it was agreed to chuse a number of men to assist ye Survaier to make a map of this Society and find the Senter of the same as Nigh as they can." The new Meeting-house was built in the center of the settlement at a site within the present Paradise Park. In 1758, "Ye Society Unanimously voted to choose Mr. John Smalley for their Minister and to proceed to his settlement in ye work of ye Gospill Ministry amongst us." "Att ye same Meeting ye Society agreed to give to Mr. John Smalley for his salary ye three first years, fifty pounds annually. . . . Ye annual salary may be Discharged and Payed by annually Delivering ye value thereof in grain to him, ye said Mr. Smalley, in the foloing manner, viz: an equil quantity of Wheet, Rye or Indian Corn."

Anecdotes connected with some of the houses now standing illustrate the difference between the New Britain of this earlier time and the city of today. On the Corbin Avenue site, now occupied by the Jerome Home, stood a district school house. It is related that Indians, who were lodged in the adjoining barn over night, paid for their lodging by weaving rush seats into the school room chairs. The Osgood House, now standing on Osgood Avenue, was built by Deacon John Osgood. In the oldest part of the house is a flight of stairs in which each tread is a solid, three-sided block of wood hewn by hand. His father, Jeremiah Osgood, was the first Baptist in New Britain. In 1776, he was immersed in a pool made by obstructing the flow of water in a rivulet in Stanley Quarter.

Many of the earliest houses in New Britain had the "overhang" above the first story. This was at first used on all four sides of the house with openings through which guns could be fired or heavy objects dropped on enemies below. Most of the oldest houses now standing are called "Salt Box" houses because they resemble, in shape, the old salt boxes. The deep sloping roof behind was adopted because the English kings levied twice as heavy a tax on a two-story house. A house so constructed was listed as a one story house.

The center of old New Britain was very different from the present center. The section which is now Central Park was only a marsh, with another marsh to the east. At that time the present Arch Street was a path through a cow pasture which included the area now occupied by the South Church. Anyone wishing to follow the path took down and replaced the bars.

New Britain at first was largely a farming community. Each member of a family was expected to do an appropriate share of the work. There was the raising of cattle, and of agricultural produce such as flax and grain. The women cared for the house, wove the cloth and made the clothing. Shoemakers and carpenters followed their trades. Blacksmiths' shops were set up, and nails, chains and tools were fashioned. Sawmills prepared lumber for sale in neighboring parishes. Corn and wheat, ground in New Britain, were shipped to the West Indies.

Transportation in those days was by stage coach or private conveyance, and the articles which were made in the shops were carried by wagons or oxcarts to be sold in Hartford, New Haven and other towns. The Litchfield-Middletown Turnpike, now Corbin Avenue, was built about 1800. A toll-gate was located over the Plainville Road just west of the present Russwin Road. The house in which the keeper lived is still standing at the corner of Norton Road and West Main Street. To avoid the toll, the settlers made a new road over the hill, up Wooster Street and down Steele Street.

The year 1850 was an eventful one. New Britain separated from Berlin and was incorporated as a town. A Normal School and a High School were started in the building already designed for use as a Town Hall. Transportation, including the shipping of manufactured goods, was greatly facilitated by the building of the first railroad through New Britain.

Important occupational changes were also taking place about this time as the result of the developing industrial situation. A tinware business had been started in a shop on East Street. In James North's shop on Main Street, North and Shipman began the manufacture of sleigh-bells. Another undertaking was the manufacture of clasps, hooks and eyes for clothing. The wire for these products was imported from Europe, and was drawn, cut and formed by hand. Part of the work was done by women and girls, many of whom took the wire to their homes and there shaped it into the proper form with pliers. The first machine for this purpose was constructed in Hartford about 1830. It was introduced into New Britain by

Mr. North. Other articles of wire and brass and also plated saddlery parts were manufactured. From these beginnings has developed the North and Judd Manufacturing Company.

The early development of manufacturing industries may be attributed to the enterprise of the Lee, Hart, Judd, North, Stanley, Smith, Talcott, Corbin, Russell, Erwin, Landers, and other old New Britain families. The Stanley Works began the manufacture of bolts and hinges; Russell and Erwin and P. & F. Corbin, builders' hardware; Stanley Rule and Level, tools; Landers, Frary and Clark, hooks and other hardware. These companies rapidly extended the range of their products and other companies were organized. New Britain has become the "Hardware City of the World."

The present manufactures include: hot and cold rolled steel, builders' tools and hardware, cutlery, electric and non-electric household appliances, machine parts and machinery, automobile parts, saddlery hardware, ball bearings, radiators, mailboxes, garden tools and equipment, shirts, underwear, sweaters and other knitted goods, cloaks and suits, and food products.

In 1718, a committee was appointed by the Great Swamp Society to ascertain the best method of maintaining schools. It recommended that, "being so widely scattered, the area of this society be divided into five parts or Squaddams." When the Society of New Britain was organized in 1754, it took over the school of one Squaddam and this became the basis of the South East School District of New Britain. In those early district schools the long desks and benches were arranged along the sides of the room. The children, when studying, faced the wall; when reciting, faced the teacher.

The New Britain High School was established in 1850. This, with the State Normal School and a primary school, was opened in a building on the site of the present Central Junior High School. At present the New Britain schools include a large High School, two Junior High Schools, and sixteen elementary schools with a total of approximately 14,000 pupils and a teaching staff of about 500. Mr. Stanley H. Holmes, superintendent of schools since 1906, has consistently maintained progressive methods, has kept the best interests of the future citizens of this city before the people, and has organized an educational system of high standing.

The State Normal School which was also started in 1850, was the first in Connecticut and one of the first in the country. Henry Barnard of Hartford, who was instrumental in its establishment, served as its first principal from 1850 to 1855 and later became the first United States Commissioner of Education. John D. Philbrick, M.A., after two years as the head of the school, resigned to become superintendent of schools in Boston. He was succeeded by David N. Camp, M.A., who held the position of principal for nine years. All of these men held positions of leadership in the State, being Superintendents of the Common Schools of Connecticut at the same time that they were in charge of the Normal School. A very prominent part in the development of the Normal School was played by Marcus White, who was the principal from 1894 to 1929. Under his leadership the school maintained its steady progress and acquired the beautiful buildings which it now occupies. During the administration of Herbert D. Welte, the present principal, the Normal School has attained the status of a teachers' college.

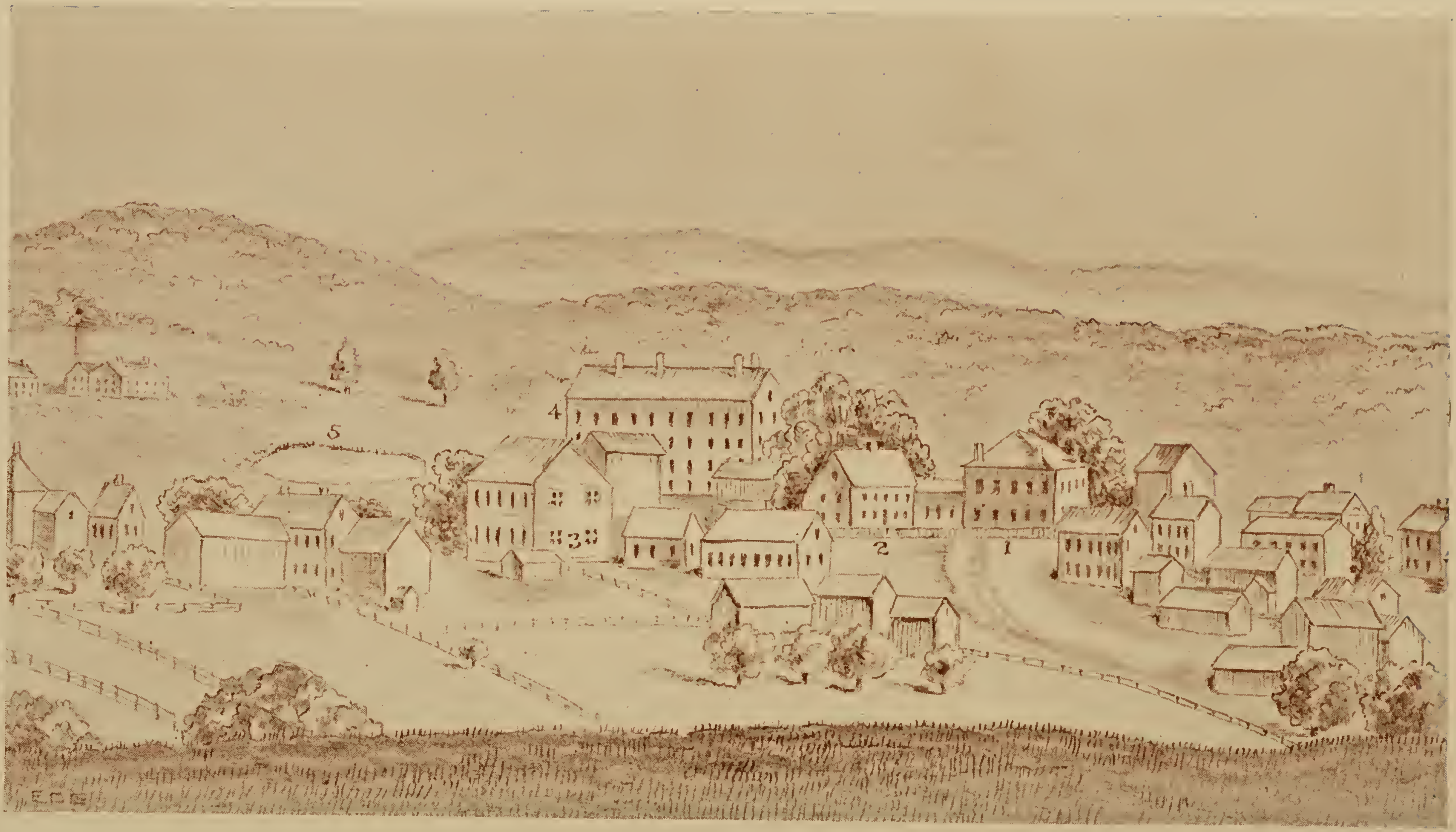
Elihu Burritt, known as an "Apostle of Universal Brotherhood" is New Britain's most famous son. A sketch of his life accompanies his picture. In the educational world, Professor Ethan Allen Andrews of Stanley Quarter was famous. He was professor of Latin in the University of South Carolina and other institutions for twenty years, and the author of a Latin Lexicon and Grammar. Deacon Alfred Andrews, who died in 1876, preserved in his writings many vivid pictures of early New Britain. He was an historian and the author of the genealogies of the Hart and Andrews families, as well as of the other families who were members of the First Church at that time. He was an ardent abolitionist.

About 1791, a public circulating library was started through individual subscriptions. This was organized in 1853 as the New Britain Institute and Library. It was located for many years on the second floor of the Miller building (south of Center Church) and then in the Hart Building. Through the gift of Cornelius Erwin, a new building was erected on High Street, and the Library moved into it in 1901. The Hawley Memorial Library for Children was built in 1931 by Benjamin Hawley in memory of his mother. The Institute owns 108,000 volumes.

In the first 165 years from its original settlement (1685 to 1850) New Britain's population, mostly of Puritan stock, increased to 3,029 inhabitants. Irish and German families began to arrive about 1850; Swedish and Scotch followed, and later many other nationalities. By 1900 the population had grown to 28,000; and in 1930 the census showed 68,128.

New Britain is rich in churches of many creeds and nationalities. Before 1820, the Baptist and Methodist Churches were organized; the Episcopal Church dates back to 1836, and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church to 1842. Since that time many Catholic Churches, a wide range of Protestant Churches, also Jewish, Russian Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Gregorian, and Nestorian Churches have been added. In the view from the summit of Walnut Hill or Osgood Hill, the spires and domes of many types of ecclesiastical architecture are mingled with the trees, domestic roofs, and towering factory chimneys of this industrial city.

The present population of the city includes former residents of Armenia, Assyria, Austria, Australia, Bohemia, Canada, the Cypress Islands, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Lithuania, Norway, Persia, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Roumania, Russia, Scotland, South American countries, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, the Ukraine and the Virgin Islands. Such is the cosmopolitan character of the city which is in the making.



NEW BRITAIN IN 1836

(From a drawing made for the Connecticut Historical Collections in 1836)

NEW BRITAIN IN 1836

This view of New Britain in 1836, would seem to have no connection with the city of today.

Prominent in the foreground is a barn-like structure (No. 3), in which the faithful Methodist brothers and sisters worshipped.

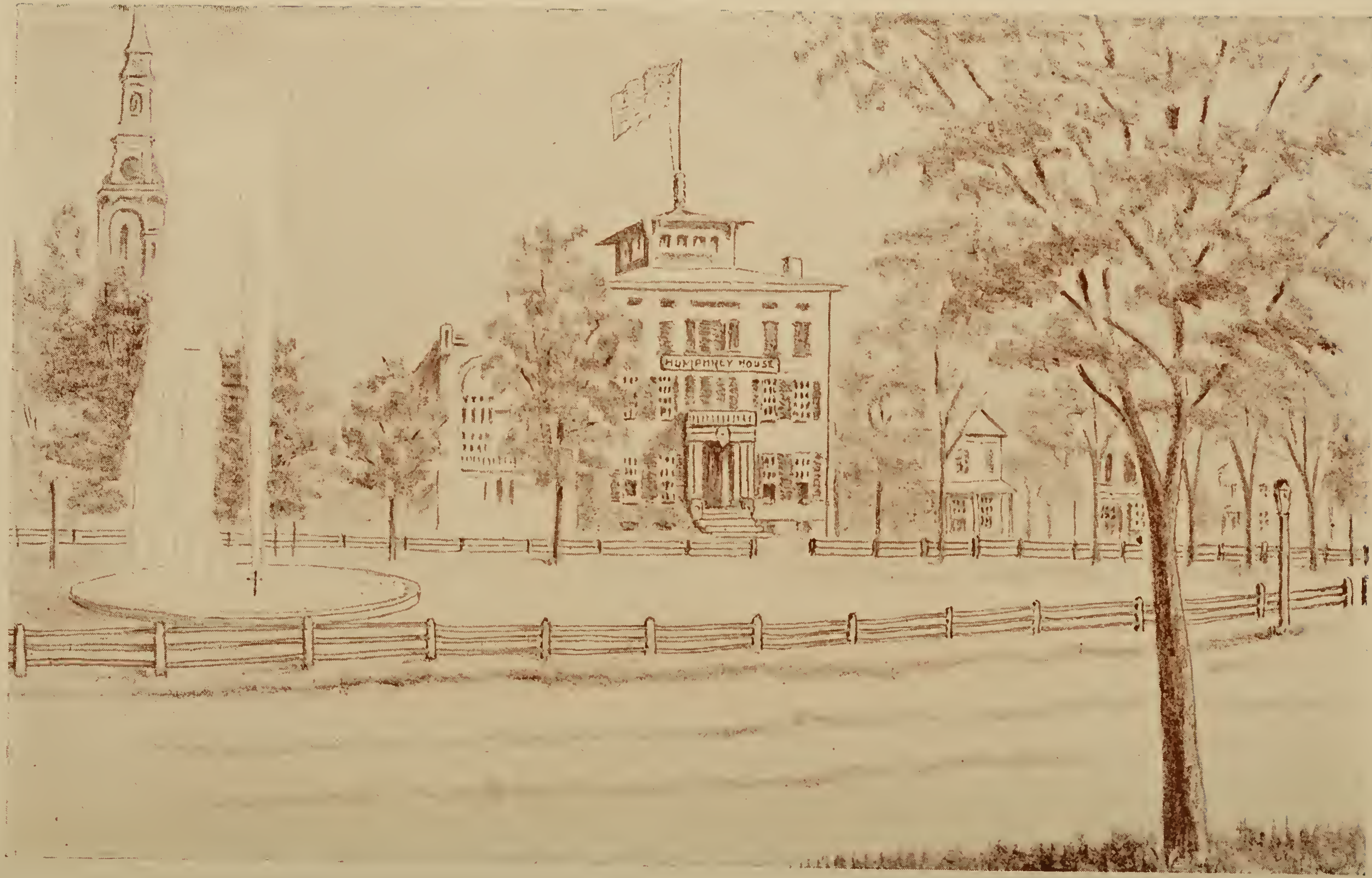
Up the street, to the north, is the old Hendrick house. This was built by Dr. Samuel Hart for a tavern, and was kept as a temperance home.

The house (No. 2) is the Lewis place which stood next to the Trinity M. E. Church.

The square-roofed house on the right, (No. 1) was built in 1831 by John Stanley, grandfather of Mr. Edward N. Stanley, President of the Savings Bank.

The four-story building (No. 4) was the shop of Seth J. North, who was a prominent manufacturer at that time.

The little triangular pond (No. 5) was near the corner of Elm and Church Streets and it was generally known as "The Canal." In winter, "The Canal" was a famous skating resort, to which the boys and girls in that period, flocked in merry crowds. "The Canal" also served another purpose, for there, in summer or winter, the converts of the Baptist Church received the rite of immersion.



CENTER OF NEW BRITAIN IN 1855

CENTRAL PARK, MAIN STREET, 1888

COLONEL ISAAC LEE

COLONEL ISAAC LEE, a grandson of Captain Stephen Lee of East Street, built a house on the east side of North Main Street, near the foot of Dublin Hill. This house, which is not standing at present, was opposite the place where St. Mary's Church now stands. It was one of the first few houses on Main Street.

Colonel Lee was a strong character, physically, mentally and morally. As a magistrate some thirty years, he was a "terror to evil doers," and a "praise to them that do well." He was a farmer by occupation, and was of Herculean strength. He was the leader of the "ring" in athletic sports and gymnastics, especially in wrestling. Many anecdotes are related of him, such as "throwing barrels of cider into his cart, as common men would pumpkins; throwing to the ground the big bull"; and "thrice throwing the big Indian, in Farmington Street."

He was one of the two men in New Britain who were treated with the utmost reverence. When Dr. Smalley or he were approaching or passing, all hats were doffed, even by men laboring in the field some distance from the road.

OLD LEE HOUSE

Colonel Lee was prominent in shaping the civil and religious affairs of the new society, and was one of the original members of the First Church. He was a member of the legislature 24 years.

When New Britain, in 1754, became a separate society, it was given its name by Colonel Lee, in honor of Great Britain.

SARAH SMALLEY

"A WOMAN of remarkable skill and economy in household matters, relieved her husband from much of the anxiety, incident to the care of a farm and parish at the same time.

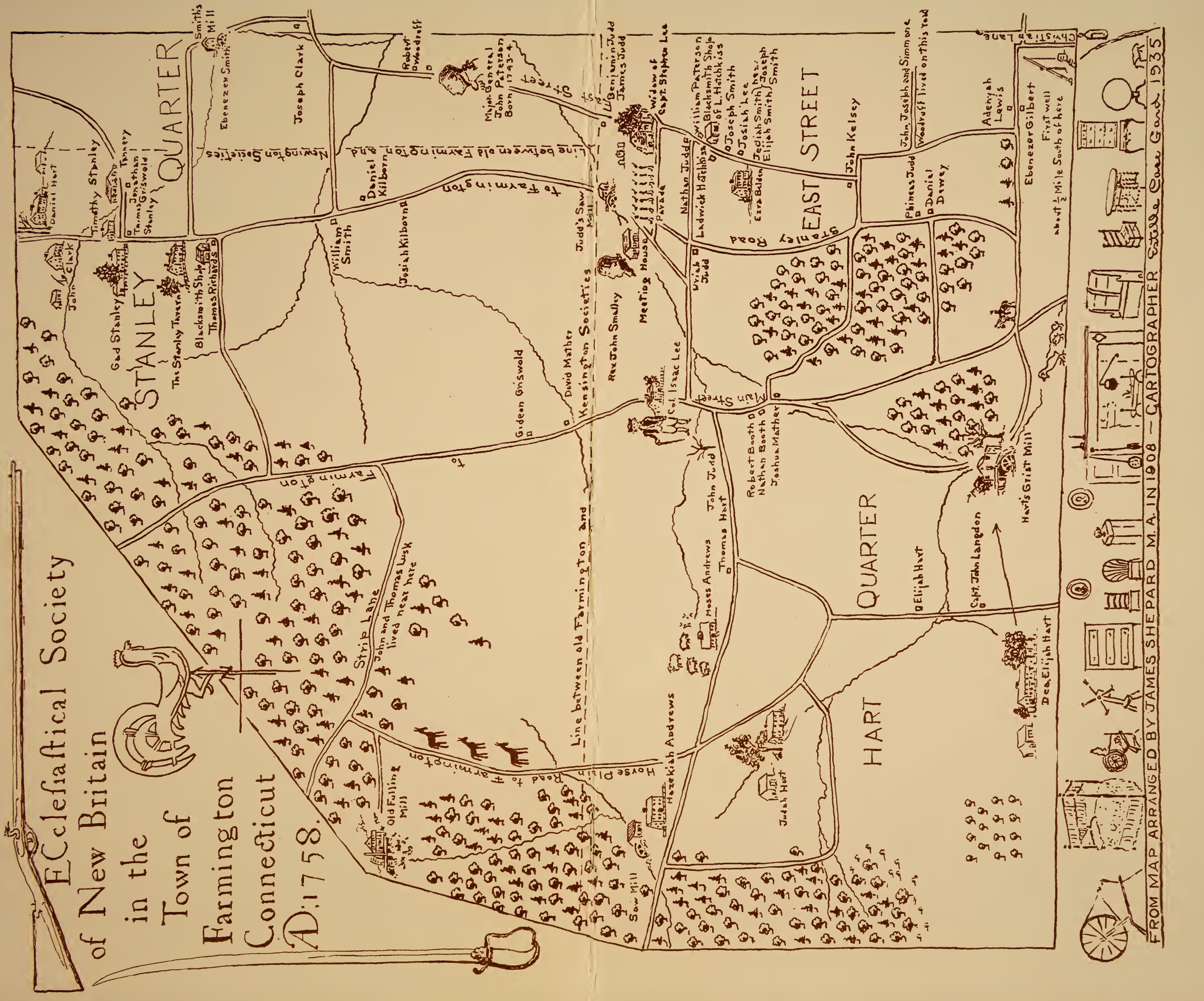
"Dr. Smalley was numbered among the 'rich ministers of Hartford County,' and for this success was doubtless much indebted to her forethought.

"The exemption of the clergy from all taxes of person or property was no unimportant item of relief, and twenty cords of wood must have been very convenient. And, then, too, the butter and cheese, and the clothing of the family, were nearly all made in the house. The farm furnished the flax, wool, and milk, and the inmates of the house had the skill, industry and tools to manufacture them. The daughters engaged cheerfully in teaching the district common schools of the parish, in the summer season. They were at length, suitably and agreeably married, though the early affections of one, were crossed by the sternness of the father."

REV. JOHN SMALLEY

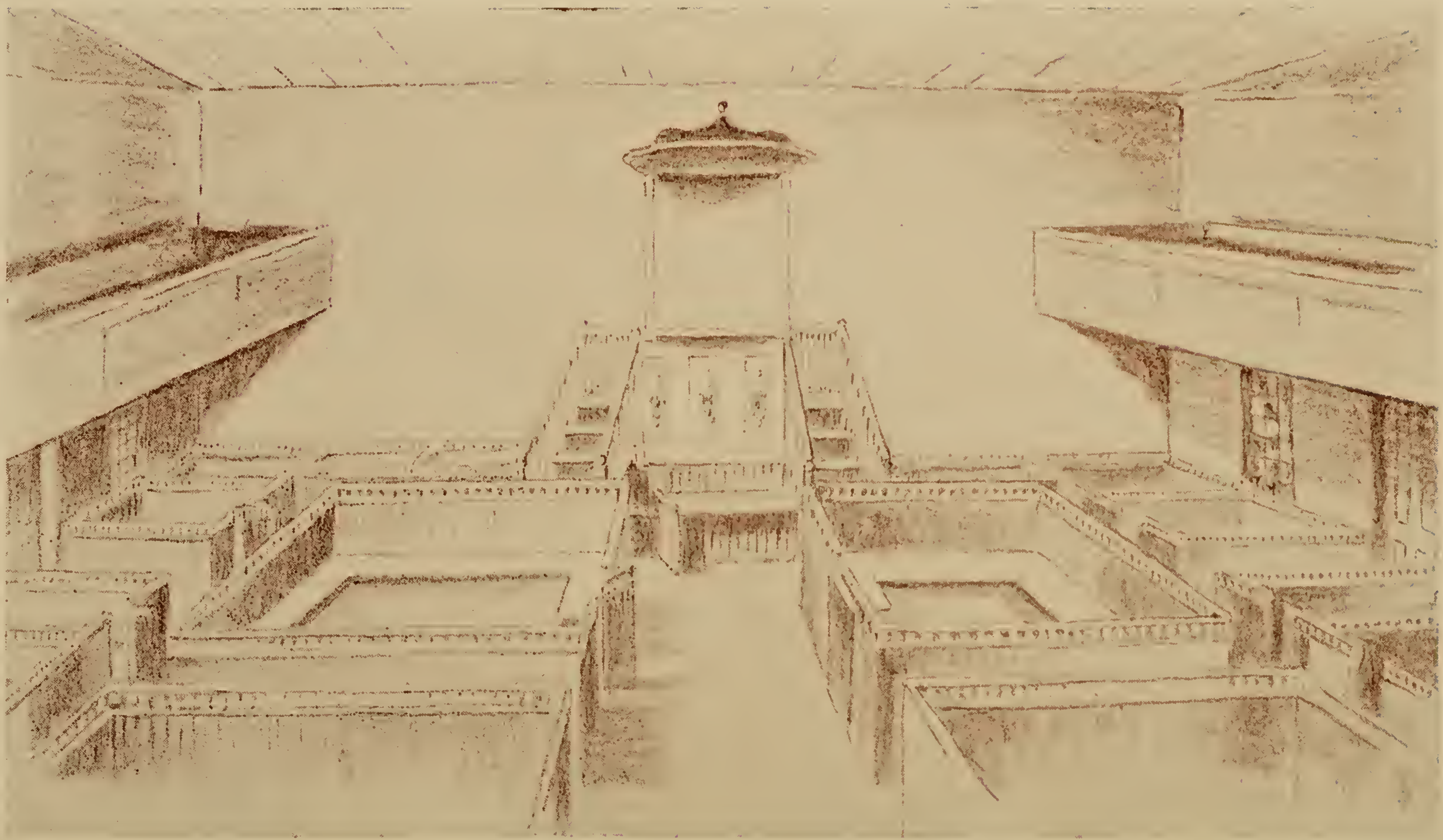
JOHN SMALLEY came to New Britain to preach in 1756, two years after graduating from Yale. In 1758, the Ecclesiastical Council organized the church and called Mr. Smalley to be the minister. "The town granted to Rev. John Smalley about twelve acres of land in the forty-rod highway to be in two pieces, if it may there be had without damaging the road, and . . . chose a committee to lay out said land, and deed it, so as may be best for said Mr. Smalley, and least damageable to the said highway." This land was west of the north end of Main Street. Dr. Smalley sold it to Colonel Isaac Lee and bought for himself a house and farm of twenty-six acres on East Street which at that time was much nearer the most thickly settled part of his parish.

Mr. Smalley was reckoned among the "new divinity" men of his age. He preached forcefully and convincingly. He was prominent as a leader in the community as well as in his own church, and after continuing as minister fifty-one years, much beloved by his church, he resigned in 1809.



Ecclesiastical Society of New Britain in the Town of Farmington Connecticut A.D. 1758.

FROM MAP ARRANGED BY JAMES SHEPARD M.A. IN 1908 — CARTOGRAPHER Estelle Case Gard 1935



INTERIOR OF FIRST MEETING HOUSE

INTERIOR OF FIRST MEETING HOUSE

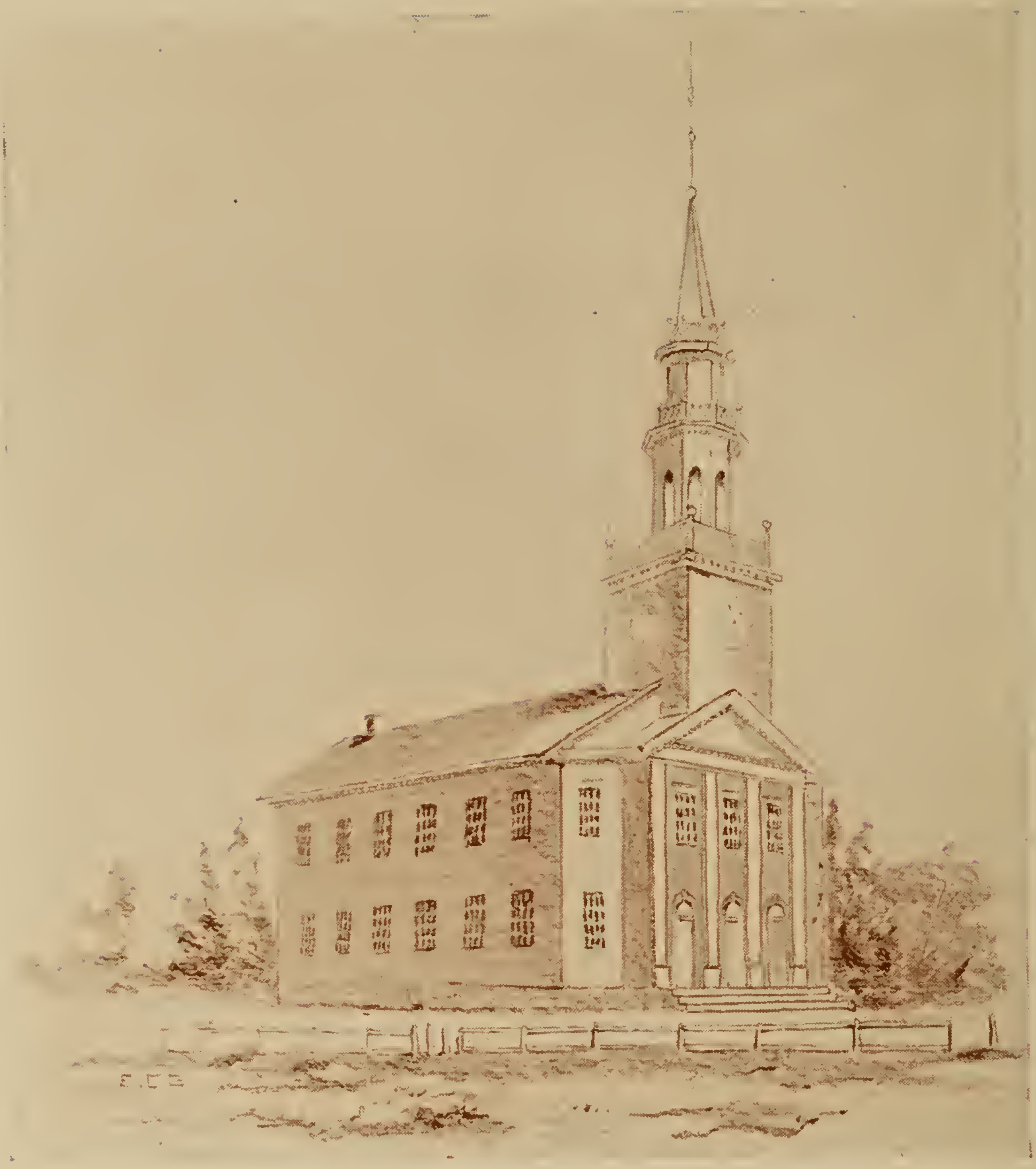
"THE INTERIOR was built over in 1784-5. The house had large galleries; the two 'high pews' one at each extreme corner to the right and left of the pulpit, in the galleries, were so much raised as to require stairs to ascend and descend, and so high that a tall man could scarcely stand erect without touching his scalp to the wall over head. The pulpit had a huge 'sounding board'; the inclosure was small, and had a door each side, with a wood button.

"The broad aisle was a solemn place. It was not carpeted, but it received many tears of penitence, both from those joining the church, and from such as fell into gross sins, and stood there while their public confession was being read.

"The pews were made square, with straight backs; seats extending quite round on every side, except barely the door, which was narrow, and fastened with a wood button. The occupants faced inwards, some would sit with their backs to the speaker, and hence the habit of standing part of the time during the sermon, which was from one to two hours long.

"The hour-glass which stood on the pulpit, was turned at the reading of the text, and the audience felt slighted if the sermon ended before the sands had all dropped."

This Meeting House is not standing, but occupied part of the small triangle now called "Paradise Park."

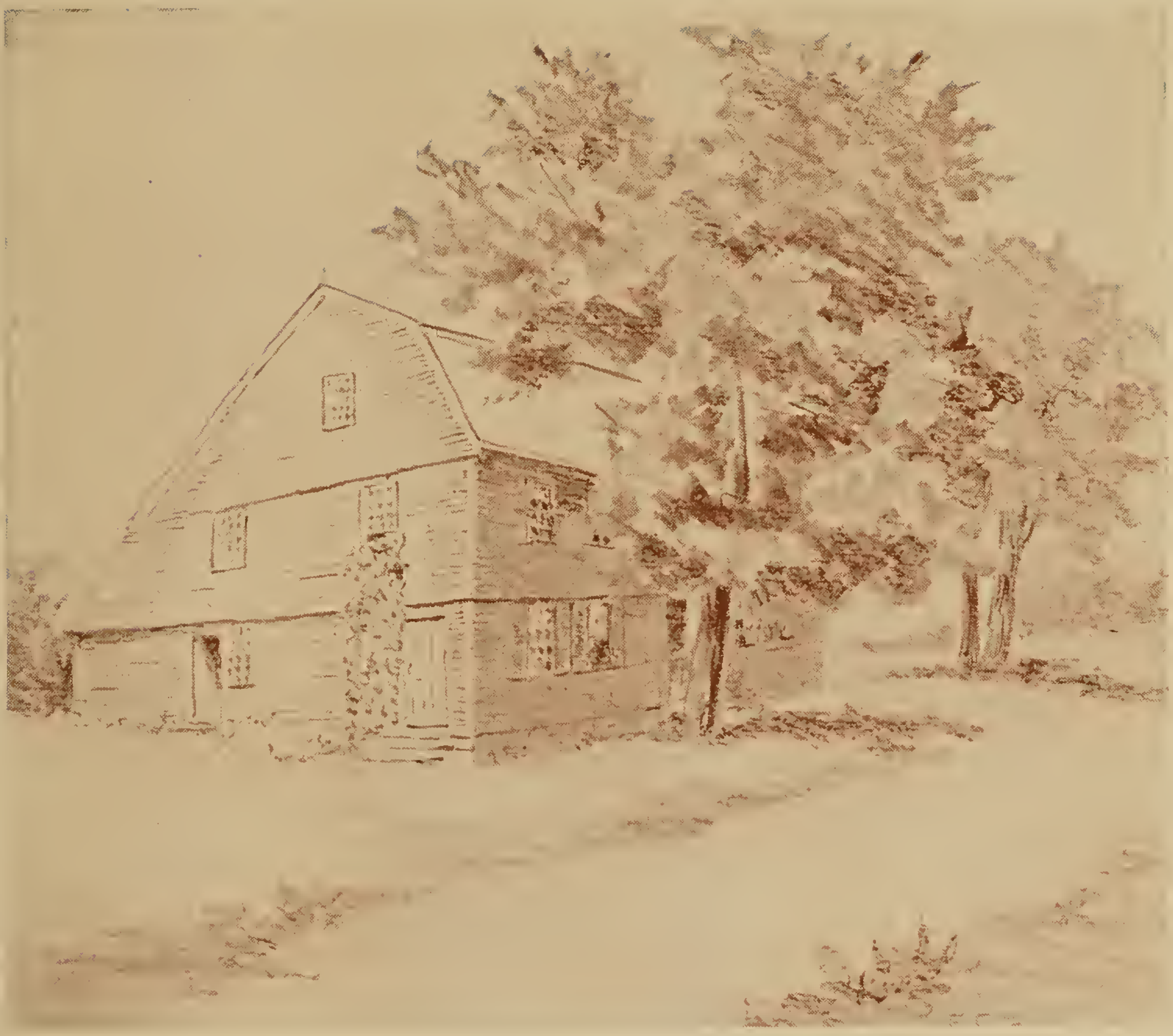


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN 1822

A NEW MEETING house was erected where Burritt School now stands. Isaac Lee gave a piece from his farm for this purpose, and Amos R. Eno with his grandfather's team brought the first load of stone for the foundation.

Above the belfry was a slender spire topped by a gilt weather vane. The bell rope hung down into the vestibule. There were three galleries, one behind the pulpit for the choir and at either side, one for the women and one for the men. This church had a large box stove and around this all the little boys gathered in cold weather.

The large choir was accompanied by a bass viol, trombone, flute and cello. The very long morning service was followed by Sunday School. The afternoon service came at 1:30.

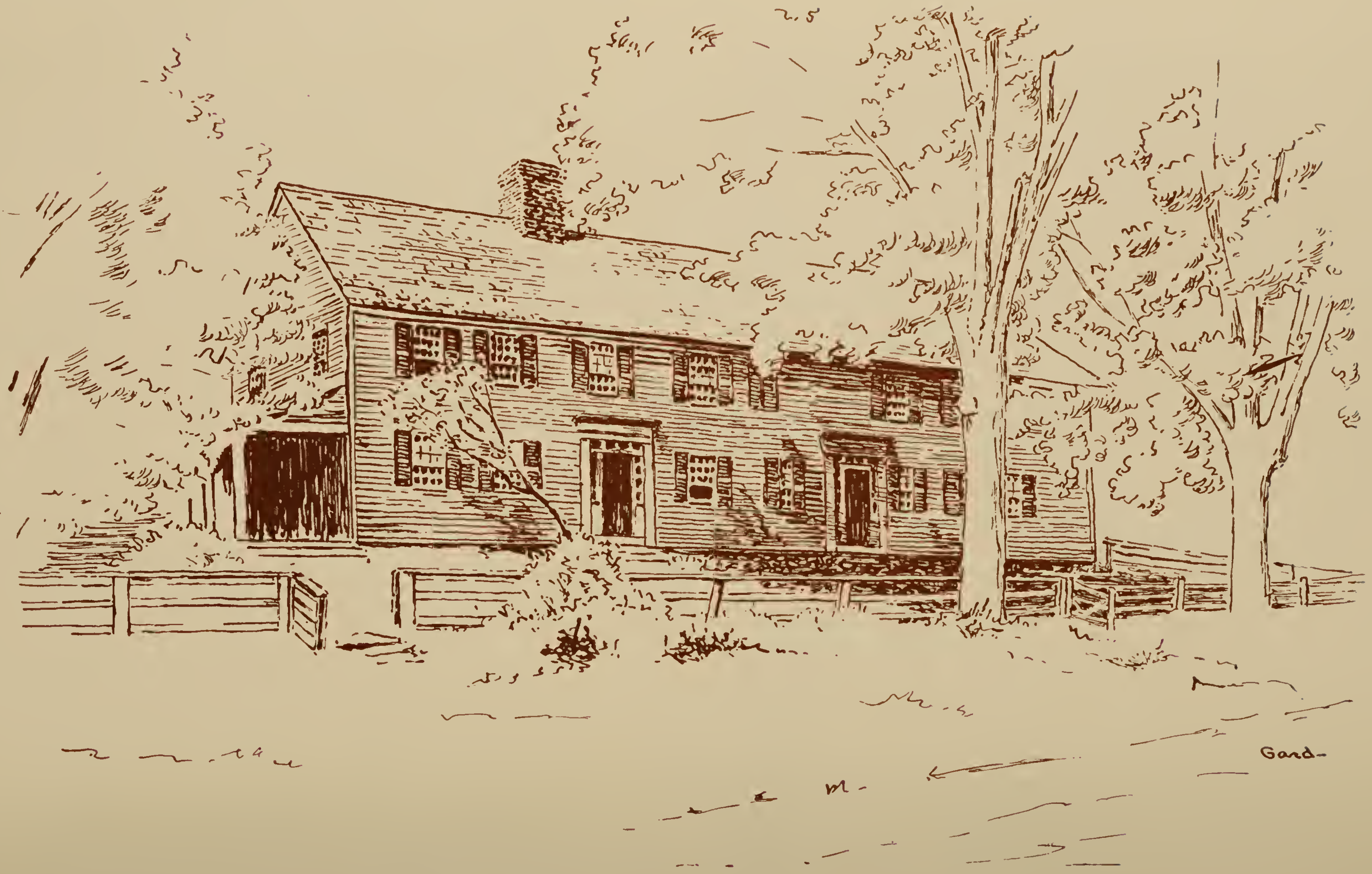


SKINNER HOUSE (not standing)

AT THE NORTH end of East Street was the old home of Josiah Lee, later called the Skinner House, because it belonged to the Rev. Newton Skinner, after passing through the hands of several others.

"Down the narrow stair-case there once stepped as lovely a bride as one would wish to see. This was Elizabeth, only daughter of Deacon Josiah Lee, who in June, 1766, was married to the young lawyer, John Paterson, afterwards Major General in the American Army. In the Paterson biographies we read of the courtship of the young couple, the beauty of the fair-haired bride, of the wedding celebrated at this house with festivities and rejoicing and of the happy married life that followed."

"John Richards bought A. D. 1776, for £555, of Deacon Josiah Lee, the Skinner House and farm of sixty acres, and lived there a few years; built and occupied the Smith Shop, subsequently occupied by Elijah Hinsdale. He sold to Capt. John Hinsdale for £900."



THE JOSEPH CLARK HOUSE

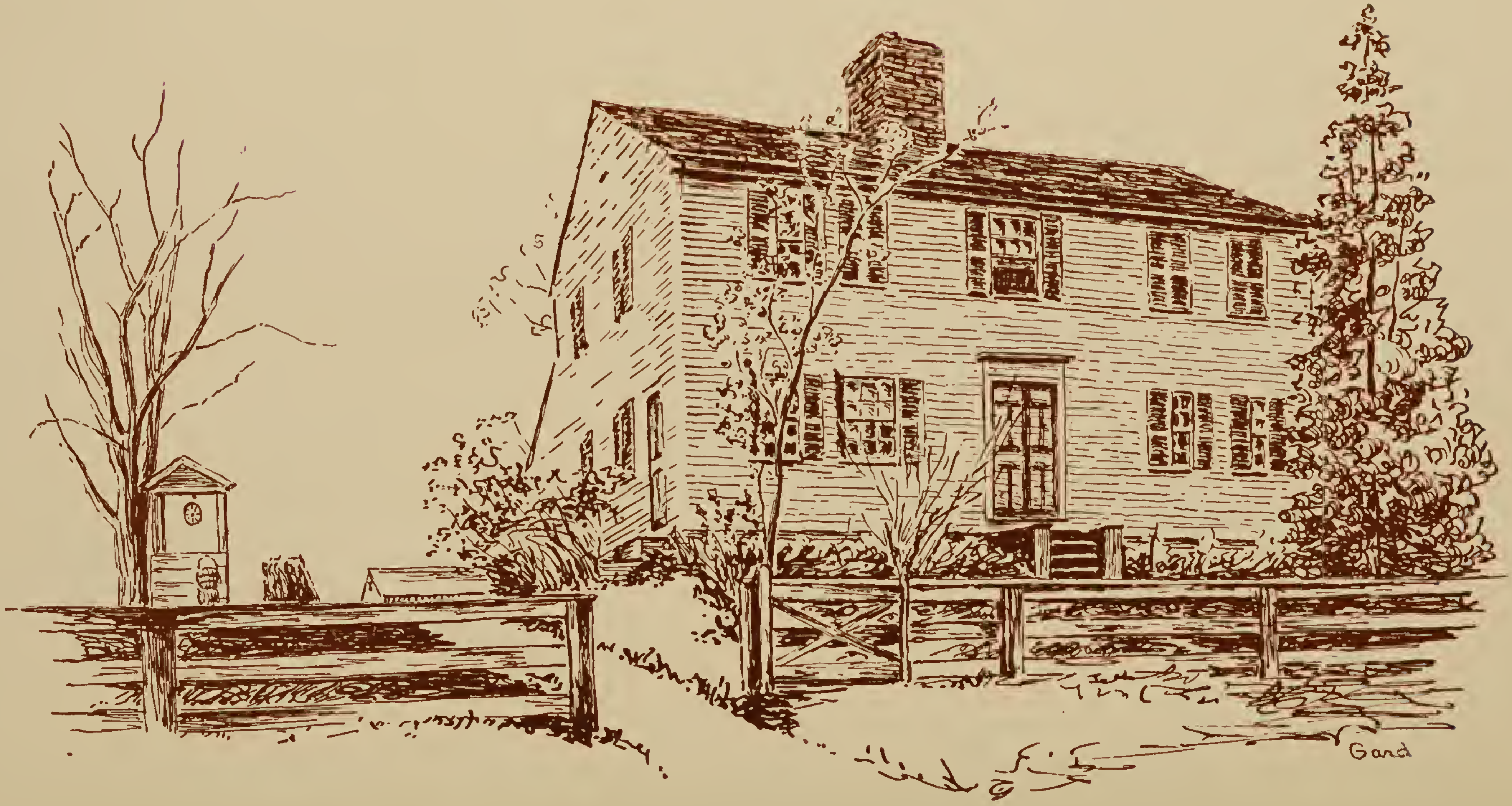
THE JOSEPH C. CLARK HOUSE

JOSEPH C. CLARK came from Farmington to live near the northern end of East Street about 1754. He had one of the earliest and largest stores in the new settlement. An old leather account book which belonged to him is in the possession of the Clark family and shows a long list of customers both in Farmington and New Britain.

At the annual meeting of the New Britain Society in 1755, provision was made for painting the church. "Att ye same Meeting it was tryed by vote whether they would culler the Meeting House. Mr. Joseph Clark was chosen to procuer coloring stuff and culler the Meeting House."

Among the bills for materials on the meeting house is this from Joseph Clark, "Ye Parish of New Britain Dr. to Joseph Clark for three Galons of Linset Oyle & for 24 pounds of White Lead & for 2 p'd of Spanish White & 2000 8 penny nails, all is in procklamation Bills of this colony. £2.18.6."

Joseph Clark built the Clark House sometime between 1754 and 1759. Seven generations of Clarks have lived in this house.



ELIJAH HART II HOUSE

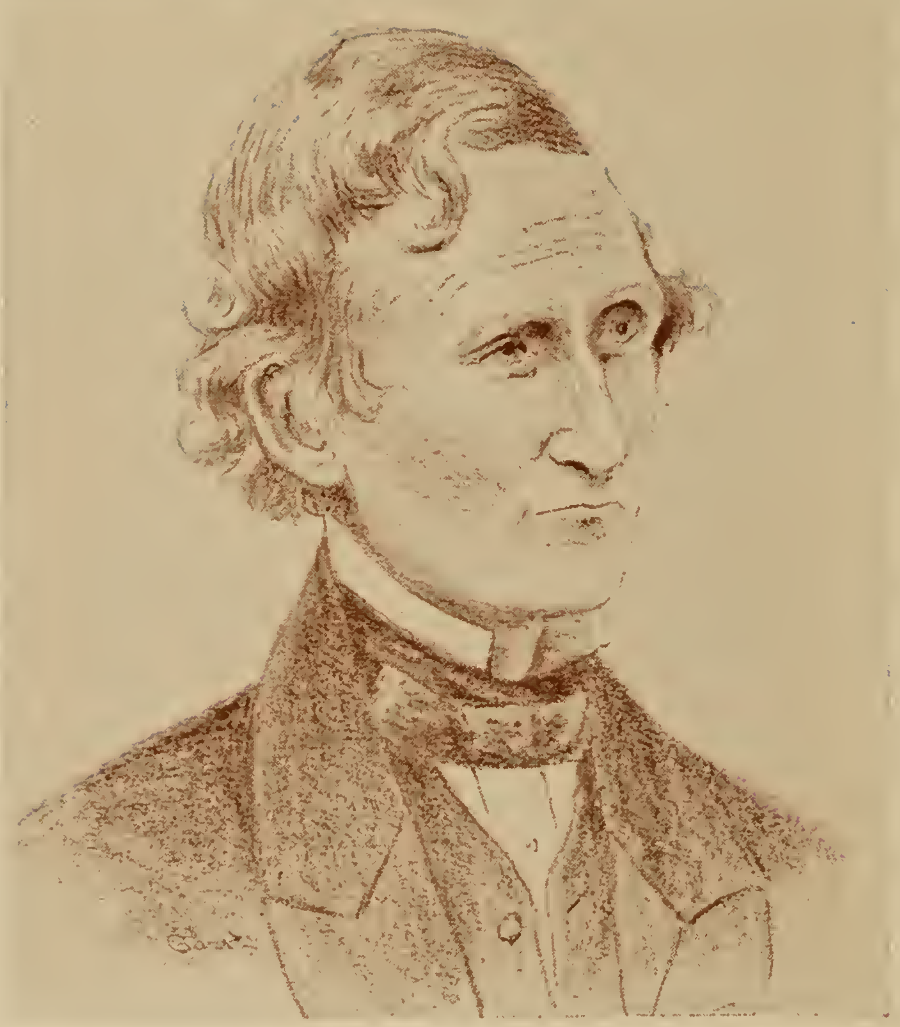
ELIJAH HART II HOUSE

ELIJAH HART II, son of Elijah Hart I, built this house between the years 1757 and 1759. The house still stands at 63 Kensington Avenue, opposite Buell Street.

"Elijah Hart was a plain farmer with a large family and large property. He was chosen deacon June 1, 1780, which office he held for twenty years. His business was all laid aside at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon by himself, workmen and servants, his face shaved, his low boots brushed, and his cows milked before sunset. His best boots would last him seven years, and his best surcoat twenty years. He led the singing in church many years, having a grand voice and good musical taste for that age."

In 1793 he deeded the south side of the house to his son, Elijah Hart III, who with his father had a mill near Willow Brook Park. He was an extensive manufacturer of corn-meal for West Indies' trade. His grandson, Elijah IV, also lived here.

Six generations of Harts have lived in this house.



ELIHU BURRITT — THE LEARNED BLACKSMITH

ELIHU BURRITT, third of that name, was born in New Britain, in 1810. The father of Elihu was a farmer mechanic, plying the shoe-maker's hammer and awl in winter, and the hoe and sickle in summer. This son followed a wider diversity of occupation, and could say at fifty that no man in America had handled more tools at manual labor than himself.

When 15 or 16 years of age, his father died and Elihu apprenticed himself to a blacksmith. While at the anvil he studied languages, carrying a Greek grammar in his hat. He practiced problems in mental arithmetic which he extemporized and solved while blowing the bellows. One was—"How many barley-corns at three to the inch will it take to go around the earth at the equater?" Another was, "How many yards of cloth, three feet in width cut into strips an inch wide, and allowing half an inch at each end for the lap, would it require to reach from the center of the earth; and how much would it all cost at a shilling a yard?" He would not make a single figure in working out this problem, and he would carry home to his brother all the multiplications in his head, and give them to him, so that he could verify them. They were found to be correct.

He spent a winter in New Haven, studying Greek, Latin, French, Spanish, Italian, German and Hebrew. On his return, he was a preceptor of an academy for a year, but stopped because of poor health. Then he set up a grocery store, but lost everything in a business crash.

WHERE ELIHU BURRITT LIVED WITH HIS SISTER, MRS. STRICKLAND

At the age of 27 years, he went to Worcester, and obtained employment at an anvil, and access to a rare library of the Antiquarian Society, dividing his hours between labor and study. From his diary is the following "June 18th, forty pages Cuvier's Theory of the Earth; sixty-four pages French; eleven hours forging. June 19th, six lines Hebrew; thirty pages French; ten pages Cuvier's Theory; eight lines Syriac; ten lines Danish, ten lines Bohemian; nine lines Polish; fifteen names of stars; ten hours forging." A list of over thirty languages, which Elihu Burritt studied, is given in his biography.

From his study of geography, he became interested in the idea of the brotherhood of people of different countries. His study of languages increased his interest in the cause of peace.

Elihu Burritt sailed for England May, 1846, and prolonged his sojourn in England three years because of openings for work in the peace cause. With the support of his English friends in Manchester and Birmingham, he developed the basis of an international association called "The League of Universal Brotherhood." He went up and down England, addressing public meetings on this subject.

International postage was then almost a crushing restriction upon correspondence, especially between English and Irish in America, and their relatives in the mother country. In 1847, Elihu Burritt first developed the proposition of a universal Ocean Penny Postage; that is, that the transportation of a letter across the sea should be performed for one penny, or two cents. This could be added to the two or three cents for transportation on land to the seaport. In two winters, Elihu Burritt addressed 150 public meetings on the subject, from Penzance to Aberdeen, and from Cork to Belfast. Hundreds of petitions were presented to Parliament in behalf of the reform.

Through Elihu Burritt's initiative and leadership, four large peace gatherings were held in Brussels, Paris, Frankfort and London. The Peace Conference of 1849 in Paris was the most remarkable assembly that had ever convened on the continent of Europe up to that time. The English delegation, which numbered about 700, headed nearly all the benevolent societies in Great Britain. When they were conveyed across the Channel by two steamers specially chartered for the purpose, it was said that if the steamers sank in the Channel, all the philanthropic enterprises in the United Kingdom would be stopped for a year. The delegations from the United States included presidents of Oberlin and Bowdoin Colleges and other prominent men. Nearly all the European countries were represented by men full of sympathy with the movement. Victor Hugo was chosen president. The Congress continued three days, and the interest constantly increased up to the last moment.

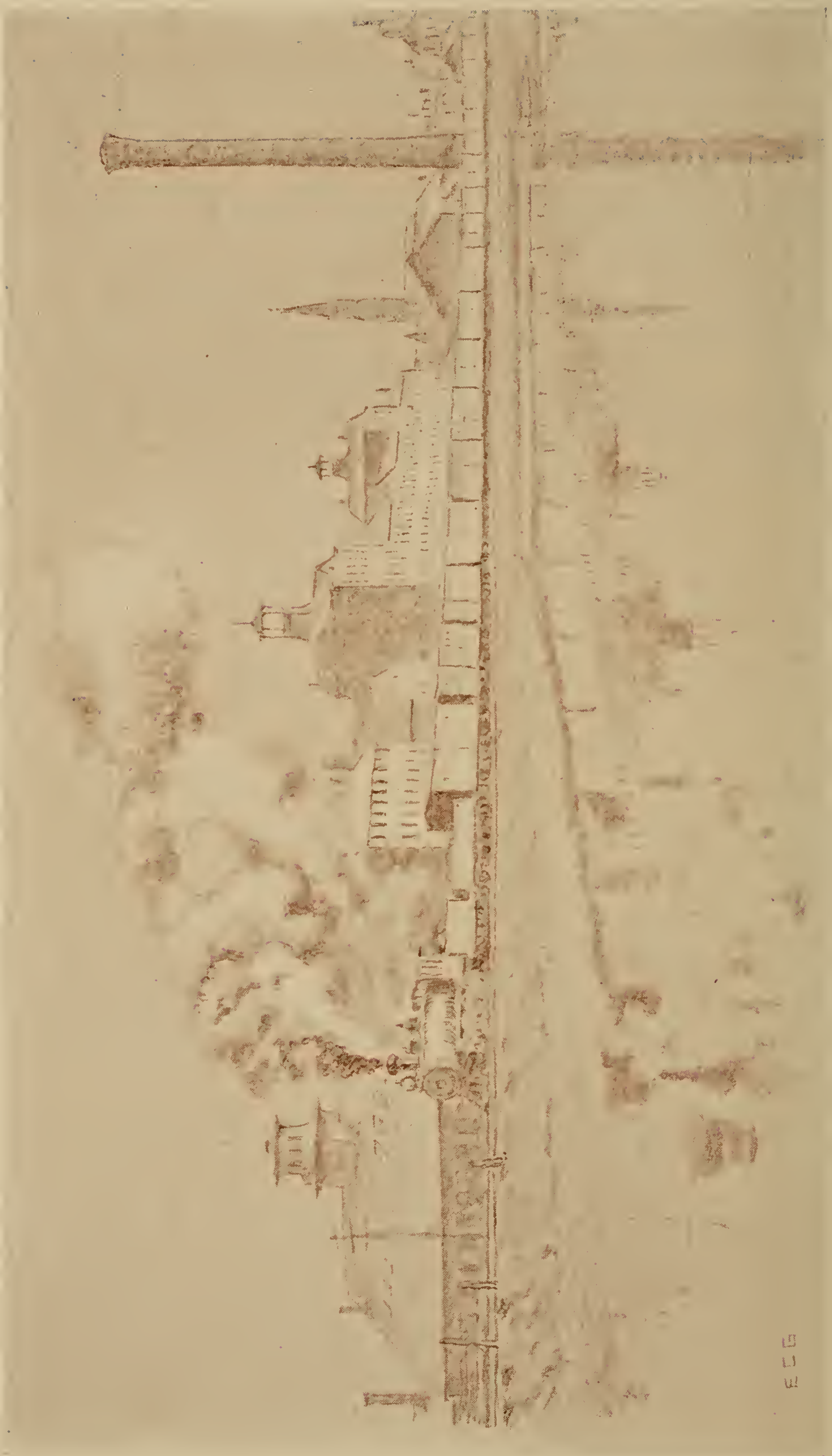
Elihu Burritt was Consular Agent for the United States at Birmingham, England from 1865 until 1869. In 1870, Elihu Burritt returned to New Britain, where he made his home with his sister, Mrs. Alvira Strickland, and her two daughters in their large house which stood on Main Street until a few years ago. Here Elihu Burritt, an "Apostle of Universal Brotherhood" died in 1879.

JEDUDAH HART HOUSE

JEDUDAH HART was born in 1739, the third of nine children of Deacon Elijah Hart I, who lived near the present intersection of Corbin Avenue and Lincoln Street, a descendant of Stephen Hart of Farmington.

Jedudah built a farmhouse in 1767, about 20 rods south of his father's house. This house now stands at 267 Shuttle Meadow Avenue. "He was an honest man, retiring in his manners, with such fondness for home that it is said that he never saw the city of Hartford, although living to old age within 12 miles."

His wife, Mary Munson, died in 1786, on the same day that her eighth child was born. Jedudah then married the widow of Phineas Judd. She already had two children, and bore three through her second marriage. Thus thirteen children were raised in this family.

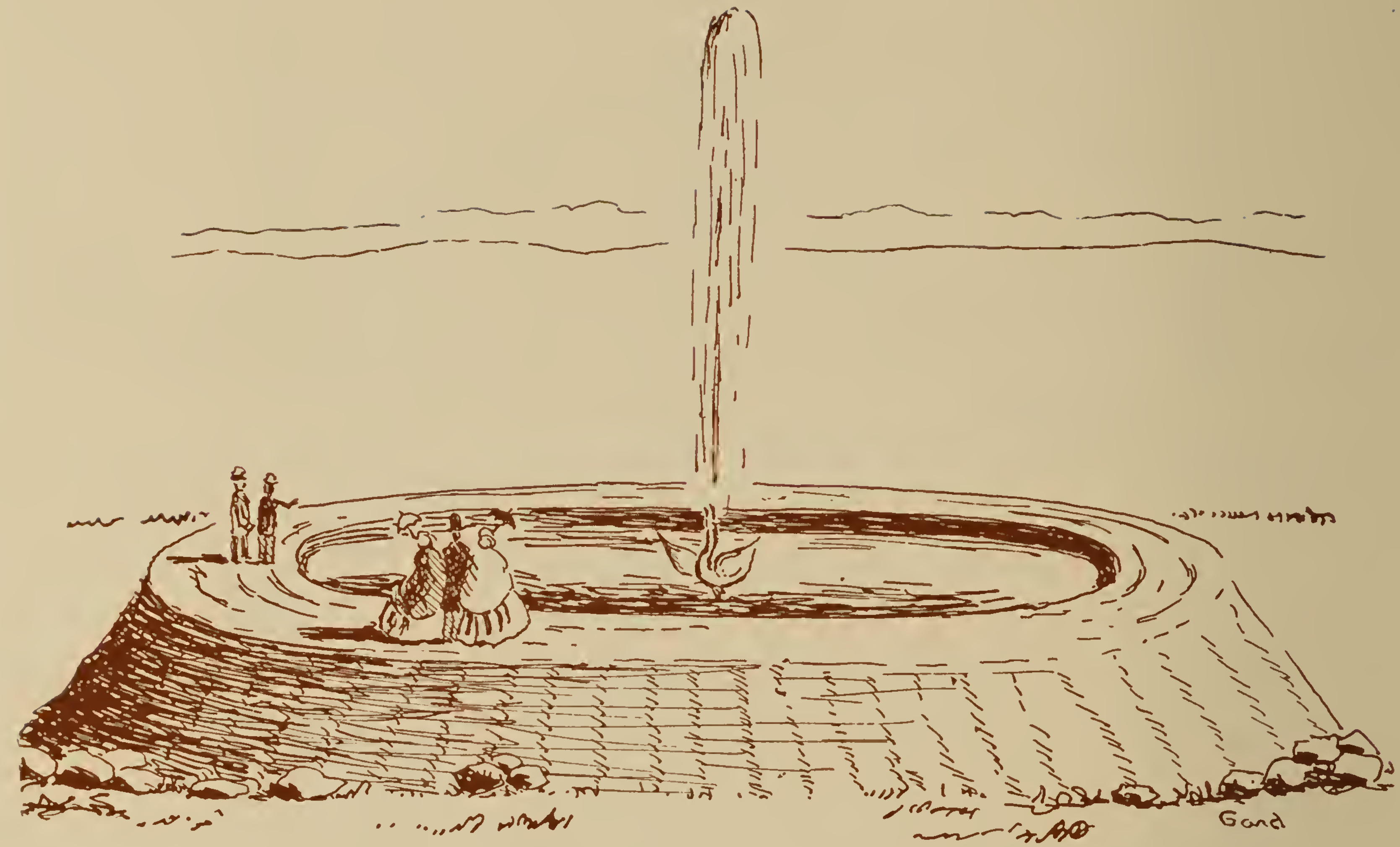


RUSSELL & ERWIN, FROM LOCK SHOP POND, 1892

THE STANLEY WORKS

936873

THE NORTH & JUDD



WALNUT HILL RESERVOIR IN 1865

“WHEN IT was discovered that a supply of water for New Britain could probably be obtained at Shuttle Meadow, it was thought essential to have a reservoir on Walnut Hill. The summit of the hill was for sale as part of a bankrupt estate. When it was sold at auction, a few public-spirited gentlemen invested in the property and presented it to the borough authorities for a reservoir and a public park. The tract embraces about eighty acres and has been made into a beautiful park with a commanding view of the surrounding country.

THE WORLD WAR MEMORIAL

THROUGH the efforts of a citizens committee, first appointed by the Common Council in 1922, and reappointed and enlarged in 1926, and with the cooperation, from the outset, of the local service organizations and the Park Commission, the World War Memorial was erected in honor of the more than four thousand citizens of New Britain who served in the World War and of the one hundred and twenty-three who gave their lives.

From drawings and models submitted by five distinguished artists, the beautiful design offered by the noted architect, H. Van Buren Magonigle, of New York, was chosen.

The corner stone was laid on the summit of Walnut Hill, July 20, 1927, and the monument was dedicated September 22, 1928.

"The Memorial is a symbol of Patriotism, expressed in chief by the Flag of our Union folded above the shaft. A pair of Eagles, emblematic of Freedom, wings and heads upstretched, seem about to lift the flag to the heavens in their mighty talons."

POINTS OF INTEREST

Burritt Monument, The Elihu	Franklin Square
Civil War Memorial	Center Park
City Hall	27 West Main Street
Hawley Memorial Children's Library	28 High Street
*Industrial Exhibit, State Armory	285 Arch Street
Jerome Home for Aged People	Corbin Avenue
Klingberg Home for Children	91 State Street
Masonic Temple	256 West Main Street
New Britain General Hospital	92 Grand Street
†New Britain Institute	8 High Street
Patterson Monument, The Major General John	East Street
Polish Orphanage	594 Burritt Street
Post Office	114 West Main Street
Spanish War Memorial	Willow Brook Park
Stanley Municipal Golf Course and Club House	Hartford Road
Stanley Municipal Swimming Pool	Stanley Street
Shuttlemeadow Club	795 Lincoln Street
Teachers' College of Connecticut	1615 Stanley Street
World War Memorial	Walnut Hill Park
Site of old Stockade and well on Christian Lane, a quarter of a mile below the line.	

The State and City Tercentenary Information Bureau will be located at the Chamber of Commerce, 300 *Main Street*

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*The Industrial Exhibit may be viewed during the week of July 22, Monday to Saturday inclusive.

†The Journals, Writings and other mementoes of Elihu Burritt will be on display in the New Britain Institute during the entire summer.

OLD HOUSES BUILT BEFORE 1790 (now standing)

1.	John Andrews House	15 Homestead Avenue
2.	Joseph Andrews House	62 Burritt Street
3.	Ezra Belden House	530 East Street
4.	John Clark House	North Stanley Street
5.	Joseph Clark House	1242 East Street
6.	George Francis House	1939 Stanley Street
7.	Cyrus (or Benjamin) Hart House	Linwood Street
8.	Elijah Hart II House	655 Lincoln Road
9.	Elijah Hart II House	63 Kensington Avenue
10.	Jedudah Hart House	267 Shuttle Meadow Avenue
11.	Joseph Mather House	741 West Main Street
12.	John Osgood House	5 Osgood Avenue
13.	Thomas Riley House	889 West Main Street
14.	Selah Steele House	Steele Street
15.	Part of the Stanley Tavern (Noah Stanley's House)	1928 Stanley Street
16.	Part of the Gad Stanley House	Stanley Street